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BULGARIAN COAL PRODUCTION, MINE EQUIPMENT, ABSENTEEISM IN COAL MINES

1939 - 1953 COAL PRODUCTION FIGURES -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost, 5 Sep 53

According to Tano Tzolov, Bulgarian Minister of Heavy Industry, 1952 coal production in Bulgaria exceeded that of 1939 by 5,288,400 tons. According to official Bulgarian statistics, the 1939 Bulgarian coal production amounted to 2,297,000 tons (bituminous coal, 158,000 tons; brown coal, 2,036,000 tons; lignite coal, 97,000 tons; and anthracite coal, 6,000 tons). At the end of 1952, total coal production thus amounted to 7,525,400 tons. The 1953 coal-production plan calls for an increase of 18 percent above that of 1952, which amounts to 8,880,000 tons. The 1952 amount appears to be exaggerated.

Karalampi Yordanov, engineer and leading Bulgarian coal specialist, writes in the journal of a Bulgarian economic organization that almost all the lignite coal in Bulgaria has a water content of at least 35-45 percent. The ash content is also exceptionally high, about 20-25 percent. (Lignite coal in the Sofia Coal Basin has a 12-percent ash content and most of the other lignite coal has a 17-percent ash content, while the coal mines of the Maritsa Coal Basin have a 20- to 25-percent ash content.) These facts show that Bulgarian lignite coal with 2,200-2,800 calories has a low heat value. Yordanov reports that the heat value of the brown coal which had 5,445 calories in 1939 has diminished and has not yet recovered from the all-time low of 4,606 calories in 1946.

COAL ORDERS CANCELED -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost, 5 Sep 53

In the beginning of August 1953, the USSR canceled orders for the delivery of coal from the Dimitrovo Basin.

Ten cars with about 250 tons of coal stood at the Dimitrovo railroad station ready for shipment to the "Stalin" State Metallurgical Plant. However, for months, this plant has complained about the poor quality of coal. Prior

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to the shipment of this coal, a group of engineers from the "Stalin" plant arrived at the Dimitrovo railroad station, inspected the coal on the spot, and canceled the delivery. In July, two large shipments were inspected by a mixed Bulgarian-Soviet Commission and nearly all of the coal had to be rejected and shipped to a plant of secondary importance. The poor quality of coal had reached a point where it obviously not only endangers domestic industry and export but also hampers them.

LESS BROWN COAL, MORE LIGNITE AVAILABLE -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost, 5 Sep 53

The proportion of the calorie-rich brown coal to the calorie-poor lignite has shifted. During 1939, 90 percent of the total coal production was brown coal (which then had a heat value of 5,445 calories). In 1952, brown-coal production fell to less than 70 percent of the total.

On the other hand, the output of the calorie-poor lignite coal rose from 4.2 percent in 1939 to 25 percent in 1952 (the heat value rose from 2,200 to 2,800 calories). A large portion of this 25 percent of the inferior lignite coal makes up the output of the "Marbas" Mines in the Maritsa Coal Basin, which were developed by Soviet specialists. According to Engineer Yordanov, the "Marbas" lignite has a 40-percent water content and a 20-percent ash content.

Bituminous coal and anthracite coal output is low in Bulgaria. However, the increase in output of bituminous coal from 1939 to 1952 has been only about 100 percent, i.e., from 158,000 tons in 1939 to over 300,000 tons in 1952. The production of anthracite increased from 6,000 tons in 1939 to about 45,000-50,000 tons in 1952.

SOVIET SPECIALISTS CONCENTRATE ON DIMITROVO BASIN -- Vienna, Interreport-Ost, 5 Sep 53

Since May 1953, Soviet specialists have concentrated their efforts on the output of the Dimitrovo Basin, especially on the newly opened "Teva" Coal Mine. Soviet machines have been arriving constantly during May, June, and July. The output of the coal basin is believed to be exported to the USSR and Hungary in increasing quantities. The Coal Miners Union publicized for one time that this basin had a reserve of 110 million tons, which would be exhausted within a maximum of 30 years as a result of poor mining methods. Today, however, the Coal Miners Union believes that the Dimitrovo Basin possesses at least 160 million tons of coal reserves. The quality of the coal in Dimitrovo is constantly becoming poorer.

COAL PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION-PLAN FIGURES, 1939 - 1950 -- New York, Bulgarski Pregled, Jun 53

The following table on coal production and planned coal production (in thousands of tons) in Bulgaria is taken from a 1947 report:

Types of Coal	<u>Production?</u>		<u>Planned Production?</u>			
	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Brown	2,036	3,138	3,709	3,971	4,126	4,545
Lignite	97	282	633	860	875	1,160
Black <u>Bituminous</u>	158	79	177	178	236	278
Anthracite	6	13	25	25	30	38
Total	2,298	3,513	4,544	5,034	5,269	6,021

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MORE COAL MINED IN BULGARIA -- Sofia, Naruchnik na Agitatora, No 14, May 53

During 1952, the production of hard coal was 73.7 percent greater than in 1948 and 3.4 times greater than in 1939.

Soviet accelerated methods of coal mining have been adopted by more than 50 mine brigades.

Aleksandur Rangelov's brigade, working in the "Georgi Dimitrov" Shaft in Dimitrovo, uses the Soviet S-153 loading machine. The average monthly salary of a member of this brigade is 1,500-2,000 leva.

The "Beli bryag" Mine in Dimitrovo, operating on a 24-hour basis, fulfilled its 1952 production plan on 3 December 1952.

Bulgarian mines are now equipped with Soviet and domestic electric drills and the transportation of coal out of the mines is mechanized 91.5 percent. Bulgarian mines have thousands of meters of rubber belt conveyers and chain transporters. For the past 2 years, the Soviet KMP-2 and KMP-1 digging machines have been used. Also, the Donbas coal combine has been recently introduced in Bulgarian mines.

The machine shop of the former "Pernik" Mines has been transformed into the large "Stalin" Mining Machinery Plant (minen mashinostroitelnen zavod). This plant produces electric mine locomotives, electric drills, ventilation equipment, electric motors, and equipment for separators. The separator for the new "Tolbukhin" Mine was made by this plant.

The "Brigadir" Mine in Dimitrovo is equipped with three Donbas combines. To improve the skill of mining engineers, a mine engineering department was created in the "Stalin" State Polytechnical Institute and a technical school (tekhnikum) for the training of intermediate technical cadres for mines was created in Dimitrovo.

During the first Five-Year Plan, the following new coal mines were established: "Tolbukhin," "Dimitur Blagoev," and "Republika," in Dimitrovo, as well as "Novi rudnitsi" (New Mines) and "Merichleri," both in the "Marbas" (Maritsa Coal Basin). This year, the "Teva" Mine will begin operation near Dimitrovo, and the construction of the "Bolshevik" Mine on the Sofia Plain will begin. In the near future, preparations will be made for building the "Maritsa-Iztok" (Maritsa-East) Open-Face Mine. -- Khr. Asurdzhiev

ABSENTEEISM IN COAL MINES DEPLORED -- Sofia, Naruchnik na Agitatora, No 16, Jun 53

During the summer of 1952, absenteeism in the "Marbas" DMP (State Mining Enterprise) greatly increased. During May 1952, a total of 3,852 workers left the enterprise; during August 1952, the number of workers who left the enterprise reached 9,462. During May 1953, there were 1,624 unauthorized absences in the Bobov dol Coal Mine; during June, there were 1,926 unauthorized absences, and during the July harvest, 2,869. As a consequence, thousands of tons of coal were not mined and production plans were not fulfilled.

There is no reason why workers should leave mines, dams, construction projects, etc., during the summer months. Cooperative farms had 12,295 fifteen-horsepower tractors and over 1,363 combines in the beginning of 1953 and workers should not make excuses to the effect that they have to leave their enterprises "in order to help" with the harvest.

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Too many workers still take their paid vacations simultaneously during the hot summer months, thereby impairing production, instead of taking their vacations during other seasons. -- Tsv. Georgiev

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